

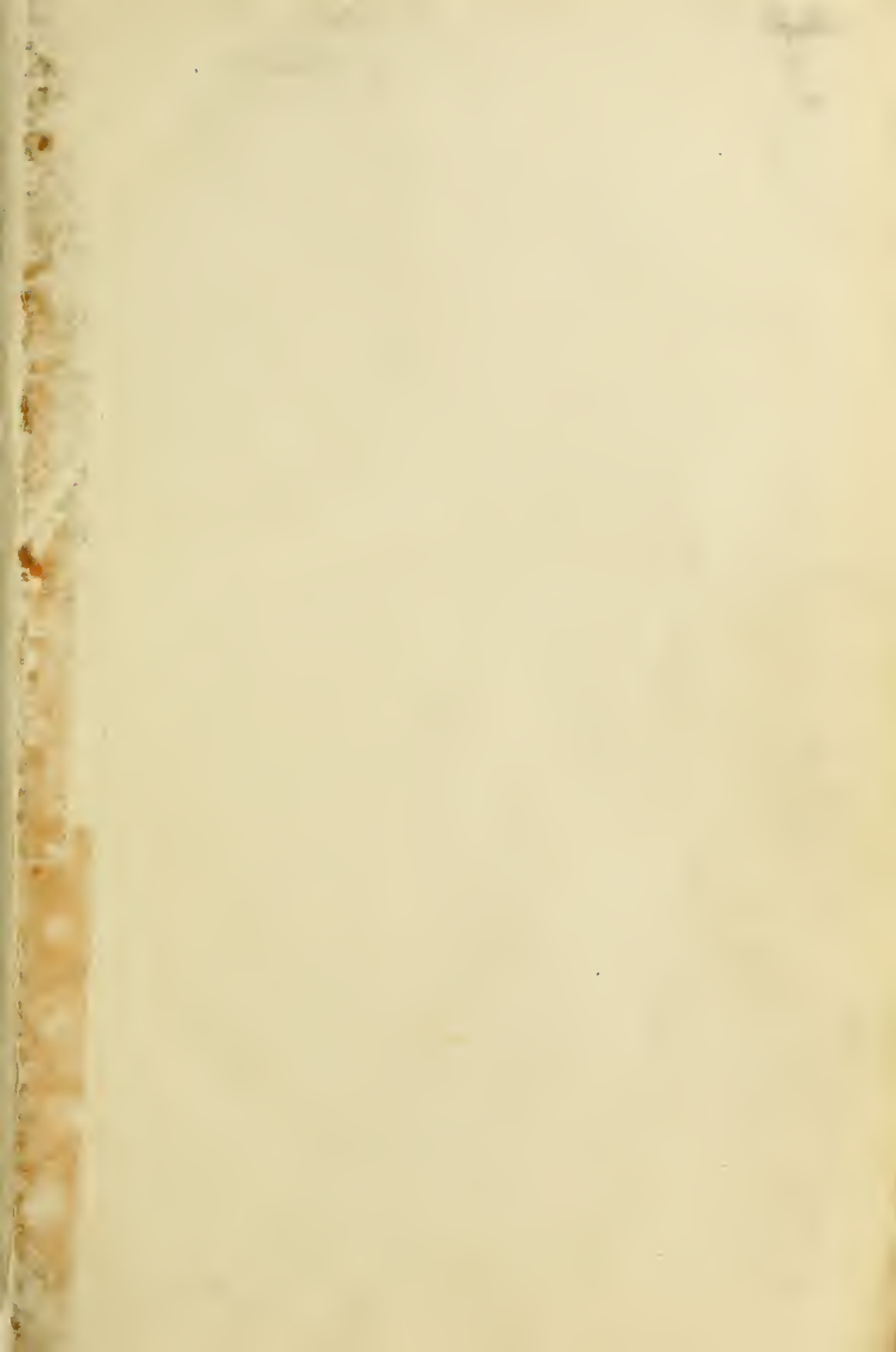
Eliza Willis Thomas.
March 1843

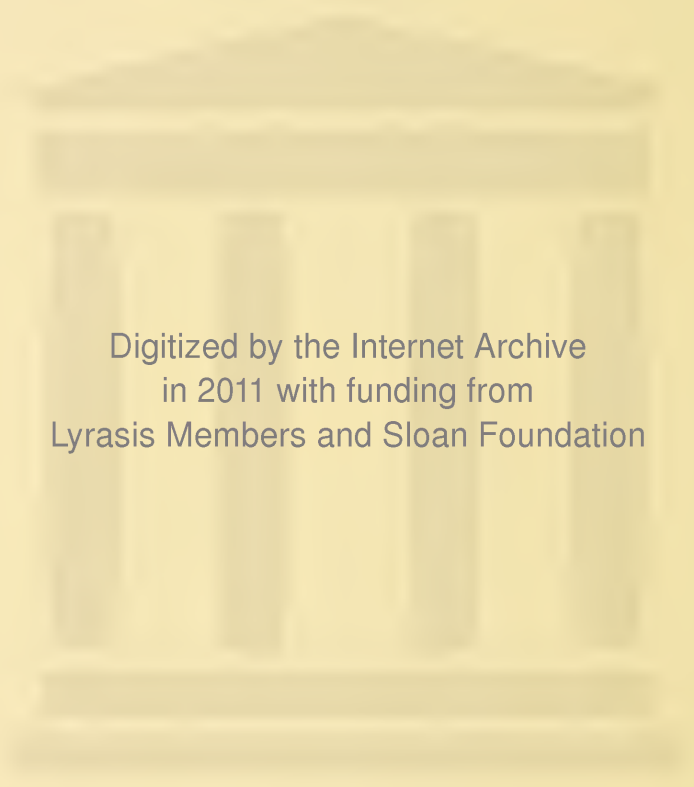
Vol. 1
Official File
Birmingham Baptist
Association.

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1833 to 1873.

Elyton - in constitution
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1846.





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MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

CANAAN ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH ROCK-CREEK CHURCH, JEFFERSON COUNTY,
ALABAMA, OCTOBER, 3D AND 5TH, 1857.

ELYTON, ALABAMA,

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "CENTRAL ALABAMIAN,"
1857.

MINUTES.

THE Introductory Sermon was preached at the Arbor by Brother A. J. WALDROP, from Judges, chap. 5, v. 23: "Curse ye Meroz," &c.

The Association then convened in the Meeting-house, was called to order by Bro. Smith, the former Moderator. Letters from the churches were read, and the Delegates enrolled their names as follows:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Free Chapel—Not represented.

Mount Zion—H. Riggs, M. S. Fuller.

Bethel—T. H. Chennault.

Salem—Z. Hagood, J. M. Franklin.

Central—J. G. Dilishaw, T. A. Melton.

Hebron—A. McDonald,* H. Moor,* H. B. Moor, J. H. Oliver.

Cahaba—J. Byers,* S. T. Vann, J. Carlisle.

Ruhama—A. J. Waldrop,* W. Eastis, J. McDonald, E. E. Moor.

New Prospect—W. H. Foster, T. J. Foster.

SECOND DISTRICT.

New Bethel—P. J. Agerton, J. Odom.

Good Hope—John Wood.

Liberty—Lindley Adams.

Rock Creek—H. G. Smith,* S. T. Huey, A. G. Waldrop.

Big Creek—O. Franklin,* O. M. Smith, D. Franklin.

Mud Creek—Rawley Stone, Isham Hammonds, M. J. Parsons.

Union—Joseph Ayres, Reuben Robertson.

Canaan—Thos. Norwood, J. P. Massey, N. S. Reader.

Roop's Valley—A. C. Thomason,* P. Herring, D. Burgin.

Prude's Creek—W. Birchfield, D. Harris.

Friendship—W. E. Beck, C. Kemp, Wm. Hyche.

Balloting for Officers.—T. F. Waldrop, Teller, announced for Moderator A. J. Waldrop; for Recording Secretary, E. E. Moor; for Corresponding Secretary, J. M. Franklin. Bro. F. declined serving, and Bro. Thomason was appointed C. S.

Visiting ministers were invited to seats in the Association.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

From Tuscaloosa Association, Minutes.

From Coosa River " Minutes.

From North River " Bro. Harbin, Letter and Minutes.

From Shelby, " Minutes.

From Baptist State Convention, Minutes.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

On Arrangement of Business.—O. M. Smith, T. A. Melton, and J. M. Franklin.

On Finance.—A. G. Waldrop and J. P. Massey.

On Sabbath Schools.—A. C. Thomason, J. Byers and H. B. Moor.

On Documents.—H. Moor and J. G. Dilishaw.

* Ordained Ministers.

Rules of Decorum were read.

Bro. Thomason was appointed to preach the Missionary sermon on the morrow, Bro. Smith resigning.

Bro. Louny was appointed to preach in the morning; Bro. Smith in the evening.

Bro. E. Wood, Treasurer, sent his report and resignation--rec'd,--and Bro. Z. Hagood was chosen Treasurer.

CORRESPONDENCE RETURNED.

To Tuscaloosa Association, Smith, Byers, and Burgin.

" Coosa River " Z. Hagood, H. Moor, A. J. Waldrop.

" North River " Smith and Beck.

" Shelby " Thomason and Waldrop.

" Ten Islands " H. Moor, A. McDonald, T. Chennault.

After prayer by Bro. Thomason, adjourned to meet at half-past 8 o'clock on Monday morning.

On Sabbath, the stand was occupied according to the arrangement. The audience was large and attentive; Christians were made to rejoice, and sinners to weep. The collection taken up at the close of the Missionary Sermon amounted to \$44.21.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Association was called to order. Prayer by Bro. Louny.

The roll was called.

The Committee on Arrangement reported; the report received, and committee discharged.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported. (See Appendix A.)

The Committee on Documents reported. (See Appendix B.)

Appointed Delegates to the Baptist State Convention, viz.: A. Thomason, H. Moor, Z. Hagood, T. H. Chennault, S. T. Vann, W. H. Foster, A. J. Waldrop, M. S. Fuller, A. C. Hambricht, Daniel Davis-

Delegates to the East Alabama Convention:--Z. Hagood, A. J. Waldrop, A. C. Thomason, H. G. Smith, W. E. Beck, E. E. Moor, J. Carlisle, H. Moor, J. Byers, O. M. Smith.

Called for the Report of the Domestic Missionary. (Appendix C.)

Called for the reading of the Circular. Read and received, and ordered to be inserted in the Minutes, and sent to the *S. W. Baptist* for publication. Whereupon the Association agreed to raise ten dollars extra to aid in defraying the expense of printing the Minutes. The amount was raised immediately. (Appendix D.)

Called for Report of the Committee on the Constitution. The report was read, rec'd, and the revised constitution was adopted, and the Clerk ordered to insert it in the Association Book of Record.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

First—Will be held with Hebron Church, commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in July, 1858. Bro. J. Byers to preach the Introductory Sermon, Bro. McDonald alternate; Bro. A. J. Waldrop to preach the Missionary Sermon, Bro. Byers alternate. Each church of this District is requested to send up an Essay to the next meeting.

Second—Will be held with Roop's Valley Church, beginning on Friday before the second Sabbath in September, 1858. Bro. Mitchell

to preach the Missionary Sermon, Bro. Thomason alternate; Bro. Smith to preach the Introductory Sermon, Bro. Thomason alternate.

The next Association will be held with Ruhama Church; to begin on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, 1858. Bro. Byers to preach the Introductory sermon, Bro. Smith alternate; Bro. Thomason to preach the Missionary Sermon, Bro. Smith, alternate; Bro. A. J. Waldrop to write a Circular, E. E. Moor alternate.

Domestic Mission taken up. Agreed to continue the Mission on former plan, and employ Bro. Smith as before. Bro. Smith declined to serve as heretofore.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

On motion, a committee was appointed to consult the ministering brethren, and learn who will serve. The committee retired.

On motion, other business was taken up.

Letters of correspondence were read and adopted.

The Committee on Finance Reported. Report rec'd. (Appendix E.)

The Committee on Domestic Mission came in and reported that Bro. Moor consents to serve. He is employed to ride so long as there can be funds raised to pay him as Domestic Missionary, at the rate of \$400 the year, allowing him to rest one week out of every month.

A subscription was raised to the amount of \$147.

The following persons were appointed to raise funds for the Domestic Mission: J. Pierson, T. H. Chennault, J. Hefner, W. H. McDaniel, J. Carlisle, W. H. Wood, W. T. Jackson, D. Cannon, T. F. Waldrop, A. G. Waldrop, D. Franklin, W. Burchfield, Joseph Ayres, J. Dickey, P. Herring, W. E. Beck, James Johnson, R. H. Erwin.

Adjourned to meet to-night at 7 o'clock.

NIGHT SESSION.

Prayer by the Moderator.

Rec'd the Treasurer's Report. Ordered the distribution of the fund (See Appendix F.)

Appointed the following committees to report at the next annual session of Association, viz.:

On Documents—A. C. Thomason, J. Byers, and S. T. Huey.

On Sabbath Schools—E. E. Moor, A. McDonald, H. G. Smith.

Resolved, That the Clerk superintend the printing of the Minutes; that he have as many copies printed as funds will justify, and that he have ten dollars for his services.

Distributing Agents—1st District—E. E. Moor; 2d Dist.—A. C. Thomason, A. G. Waldrop, T. F. Waldrop.

Resolved, That the Clerk keep one hundred copies of the Minutes or correspondence.

Resolved, That this body concur in, and recommend to the churches and to all friends, the measures adopted by the First District in relation to Elder J. Byers; also those adopted by the Second, in relation to Elder O. Franklin.

Adjourned to meet at the time and place aforesaid.

A. J. WALDROP, *Moderator*.

E. E. MOOR, *Clerk*.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX (A.)

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

YOUR Committee regret to learn and know of so sad and woeful neglect by the churches composing our Association, of this great arm of moral training of the youth within our bounds, and we recommend each and every church and neighborhood, to organize and keep up a regular Sabbath School, at least during the ensuing year; and we apprehend that the beneficial effects thereof will be so clearly manifest that it will be rather a pleasure than a trouble to continue them. We would further urge the necessity of our ministers preaching to their several churches on this important subject.

We respectfully submit the above to your consideration.

A. C. THOMASON, Chairman.

APPENDIX (B.)

We, your Committee on Documents, beg leave to report that we have had the same under consideration; and when we find that there are so many valuable periodicals, religious papers and books extant, that we are at a loss to know which of the many deserves our first notice.

To the ministers we recommend a little book titled "The Power of Illustration;" another titled "Ministry for the Times;" also, a careful perusal of the circular letter in the North River Minute of 1856. And to the churches, a work titled "Duty of Churches to their Pastors;" and to all Baptists and reading people generally, "The South-Western Baptist," "Tennessee Baptist," and the home and foreign journals; and to the Association, the Report which we see in the Minute of the State Convention on Education. We recommend to this body the importance of co-operating with the East Alabama Baptist Convention.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HEZEKIAH MOOR, Ch'n.

APPENDIX (C.)

REPORT OF DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

DEAR BRETHREN: I commenced my labors just after our last Association, and travelled over the same field of last year, with little change. I left out the Five-Mile Settlement, as they have regular Baptist preaching. I held one meeting fifteen miles above Jasper, on the Sipsy, where I find the country fast improving, and a great desire manifest for preaching. My field of labor has been about forty miles square. I have not been able to go to half the places where I have been requested to preach. The *Macedonia cry* is raised on all sides—"Come over and preach for us." The people have built a house for worship near Wilcy's Mill, on the Warrior since our last Association. At most places where I have preached, the Lord has greatly blessed the Word: Christians have rejoiced, and sinners wept, and mourners have been comforted. I have found many anxious seekers at most places where I have preached this year. I have met no opposition except from the Pedoes; they are opposed to their members attending Baptist meetings; but they are on the decline where Baptist tenets are understood.

SYNOPSIS.—I have travelled 1425 miles; preached 120 sermons; assisted in the ordination of three deacons; baptized 11 persons; spent five months in the service of the Association; 15 professed at my meetings; therefore I recommend the continuance of the domestic mission in the same field.

RECEIPTS.—By collection at Ruhama, \$14.35; at Big Creek, \$11.35; Sardis, \$1.60; of C. Williams, for 1855, \$5.00; of James Williams, \$5.00. Total, \$37.20

The above is respectfully submitted.

H. G. SMITH, D. M.

APPENDIX (D.)

CIRCULAR.

The CANAAN ASSOCIATION, to the Churches they represent, sendeth greeting.

BELoved BRETHREN: We address you by way of circular this year on the subject of Divine and Moral Agency; and being aware that divine purposes on the one side, and moral purposes on the other, has produced one of the most undecided arguments in the religious world, we have adverted to the Scriptures on these interesting subjects. And, in the first place, we remark, that there is no dispute about divine agency, or the purpose of God in having "so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life." "Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God."—*Acts II: 23.* And further, that God had a purpose of salvation to sinners of Adam's fallen race, and that Christ should not shed his blood in vain is equally certain. "He shall see his seed; He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied."—*Isaiah LII.* But, as it regards the travail of Christ's soul, a question arises, is it a definite or an indefinite number? We argue a definite number. In Rev. chap. vii.—The servants of the Lord that were sealed of all the tribes of Israel was an hundred and forty-four thousand: here is a definite number; and in the days of Elijah the prophet, in the great declension in Israel. The Lord told Elijah he had reserved to himself seven thousand that had not bowed the knee to the image of Baal—here is a definite number; and our Saviour said to the Jews, "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold, and they shall hear my voice, them must I bring, and these shall be one fold and one shepherd."—*John x: 16;* and yet they were unconverted among the Gentiles; and did Christ know them definitely, or was it a matter of chance or uncertainty.

That God is a purposing God, and that he had a purpose of salvation relative to the travail of Christ's soul, is scripturally plain. Read the first of Ephesians, vs. 4th, 5th, and 9th: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love. Having predestinated us into the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will. Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself. And Romans viii: 29th - "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son." And here we remark that all the divine purposes are laid on divine wisdom, and are consistent with all the perfections of the divine nature; and as it regards the calling of sinners from darkness to light, we hear the apostle Peter, 1st Ep., 1: 2d: "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father through sanctification of the spirit unto obedience, and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ; and here is both divine and moral agency. "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power."—*Psal. cx., 3.* And God said to Israel, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee these texts, and all expressive of divine and moral agency.

And also the doctrine of christian perseverance, which we believe to be a christian doctrine. The apostle Paul, in the 6th chapter of the Book of Romans, writes: For if we had been planted in the likeness of Christ's death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection, knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him, for in that he died he died unto sin, and but in that he liveth he liveth unto God. So reckon ye yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God. And he further adds and says: "Sin shall not have dominion over you, for ye are not under the law but under God." Now, if a Christian can fall from grace, the apostle is chargeable of making use of an improper figure with regard to christian perseverance; but further, the scriptures support the doctrine of divine and moral agency in the perseverance of saints, "who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation."—1st Peter, 1: 5. "But he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and the wicked one toucheth him not." In these texts there is both divine and moral agency in the perseverance of saints, and God's keeping the Christian enables him to keep himself. "Being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."—*Rom. vi: 22.* All these texts go to prove divine and moral agency in the perseverance of saints; and Paul writes to one of the churches, 'work out your own salvation with fear and trem-

bling, for it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his own good pleasure." We are aware of the opposition made to the doctrine of perseverance by those that believe in falling from grace: "Get converted; sit down on the stool of do-nothing; live in sin twenty years, but cannot fall from grace; die, and go to heaven. Sometimes this remark has been heard from the pulpit; and we feel it to be our duty to defend the doctrine from such gross misrepresentations; and we doubt not that divine and moral agency will be exercised throughout the rounds of a never-ending eternity; not that saints will stand or fall on the principles of moral agency.

The church militant and church triumphant stands on a firmer foundation than angels in their first creation, or Adam before he fell. As our Saviour said to Peter, "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." "And the Lamb in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and lead them unto fountains of living water, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" And "the angels which kept not their first estate but left their own habitation, and are reserved under everlasting chains of darkness," are punished on the principles of divine and moral agency.

Advert to Pharaoh, that wicked king of Egypt, that while God said a number of times he had hardened Pharaoh's heart, it is also said several times that Pharaoh hardened his own; when he saw there was respite, he hardened his heart and would not let Israel go. There was divine and moral agency in his destruction, for his aggravated transgressions.

It would be too tedious to quote all the scriptures that prove this doctrine. A few must suffice: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity, and mock when your fear cometh.—*Prov.* i: 24, 25, 26. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world; and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."—*John* iii: 19. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved; and for this cause God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie, that all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness; and the pagan world will be judged, not as gospel slighers. Read the first chapter of Paul to the Romans, and particularly the 21st verse: "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were they thankful," &c. "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness," &c. And no doubt but that divine and moral agency in the punishment of the wicked that die in sin will be exercised throughout vast eternity; the damned will be sinning, and God will be smiting. When the fifth vial was poured out on the seat of the beast, his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven.

Conclusively, brethren, read the scriptures; that, through faith, is able to make us wise unto salvation: and when creeds, and confessions, and disciplines are laid aside, and all, like the noble Bereans, will search the scriptures to know the truth, the prophecy will be fulfilled, and the desirable period will come when the watchman on Zion shall join their voices together, and the people shall become one.

Finally, Brethren, Farewell!

APPENDIX (E.)

STATISTICS—FINANCIAL REPORT.

NAMES OF CHURCHES	COUNTIES.	Add'ns by			Dis'm'd by			Total	Min. Fund	Assoc. F'd.	D. M. Fund
		Baptism.	Letter.	Restor'n.	Exclud'd.	Letter.	Death.				
Free Chapel,	St. Clair,*										
Mount Zion,	do	1	4		1	3	1	95	\$2,00	2,00	\$3,25
Bethel,	do		4		1	4	2	66	1,50	,50	
Central,	Jefferson,		5		3	6		42	1,05	1,00	
Hebron,	do	1	1		1	2	1	105	3,00	1,00	
Cahaba,	do		1	1	2	1	0	73	2,50	1,50	
Ruhama,	do	2	3	1	1	12	4	124	3,30	3,00	
New Bethel,	do		8		2	8	1	17	0,70	,50	4,00
Good Hope,	do					4	1	21	1,10	—	
Liberty,	do			1	1	4		37	1,00	1,00	
Rock Creek,	do								2,00	1,10	
Mud Creek,	do	1	1	1				47	1,60	1,40	2,50
Prude's Creek,	Tuscaloosa,				2	12		44	1,50	1,00	10,00
Union,	Jefferson,	1				1		48	1,50	,50	
Canaan,	do								1,50	,50	5,00
Roop's Valley,	Tuscaloosa,	1	3		1	7	3	59	2,00	2,00	10,00
Friendship,	Walker,						1	11	0,50	—	
New Prospect,	Jefferson,	1	2			3		15	0,75	,50	
Salem,	do		1					46	1,10	2,00	
Big Creek,	do	8	4			1	1	64	2,00	—	
		16	37	4	16	68	15	914	\$30,60	19,50	\$34,75

* Not represented.

It was resolved in the Association, that all individual contributions for the Domestic Mission, be noticed in the Minutes.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR D. M.

E. Wood, \$5; M. G. Wood, 1; J. Williams, 1; H. Pierson, 2,50,	-	-	\$9-50
M. McLendon, 50c; J. Heifner, 2 00; H. B. Moor, 5; H. Moor, 2,	-	-	9 50
J. McDonald, 2,00; J. Carlisle, 2; D. Tally, 4; W. Eastis, 2,	-	-	10 00
A. J. Waldrop, 2 50; R. Robertson, 2; W. H. Foster, 3; B. Praytor, 3,	-	-	10 50
S. Pierson, 2,50; J. Ayres, 3; J. Wilks, 2; A. H. Blake, 1,	-	-	8 50
S. T. Huey, 2,50; Geo. Robertson, 5; J. M. Franklin, 2; M. J. Parsons, 2;	-	-	11 50
R. Stone, 2,00; I. Hammonds, 2; H. G. Smith, 5; Z. Hagood, 10,	-	-	19 00
R. H. Erwin, 2 00; M. Hagood, 3; R. J. Hagood, 3; D. W. Anderson, 2,	-	-	10 00
J. H. Waldrop, 2,00; A. Howton, 1, R. S. Waldrop, 2,	-	-	5 00
Lindly, 1,00; Eleanor, 2; T. F. Waldrop, 1; Wm. Vines, 75c,	-	-	1 75
E. C. Smith, 4,00; O. A. Franklin, 1; F. Taylor, 50c; J. D. Frazer, 2,	-	-	7 50
C. Waldrop, 3,00 O. Franklin, Jr., 1; Jas. Galaway, 1; F. Lacy, 1,	-	-	6 00
S. Wilkey, 2,50; A. G. Waldrop, 2; A. Colored Man, 1,	-	-	5 50

\$117 25

APPENDIX (F.)

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received of former Treasurer on Domestic Mission,	-	-	-	\$18.37
Received of former Treasurer on Indian Mission	-	-	-	3.75
Received and paid out the minute fund,	-	-	-	43.40
Received and paid out Rec'd Associational Fund for correspondence,	-	-	-	19.50
Received for Domestic Missionary from the churches,	-	-	-	34.50
By individual contribution,	-	-	-	117.25
Collection on Sabbath, \$45,00; for Indian Mission, 20,00,	-	-	-	65.00
For E. A. Convention,	-	-	-	20.00
For African Mission,	-	-	-	5 00

Z. HAGOOD, Treasurer.

